

4. What book have you ever read that you liked better?

5. What book have you ever read that you did not like?

6. Why did you not like it?

7. If you were given money to buy a book you have never read, what book would you buy?

Teachers were requested to introduce the questions as a regular exercise, and in no way to arouse the children's suspicions. Each paper was to be accompanied by the age and sex of the pupil, the name being unimportant. As a rule, however, the name was put on, as upon any composition exercise.

The teachers in the city who were asked to use the syllabus readily responded, and a large number of papers were sent in. From these the returns which I shall present were obtained.

The papers were sent in early in February last, so that the records cover a period of about five months. The total number of papers examined was 2,989, containing the replies of 1,511 boys and 1,478 girls. The ages represented are from 9 to 15.

In compiling results, answers to the first two questions have received the largest amount of attention. For convenience in classification the books reported were referred to one of the following heads: History, biography, fiction, travel, adventure, science and poetry. In adhering to this classification it was often difficult to decide under just what head a given book should be placed; e.g., in the case of "Robinson Crusoe," should it go under the head of fiction or of adventure, or in that of the almost equally popular book, "The Boys of '76," should it be classed as history or as adventure? As a rule, all ordinary children's stories, as well as the standard works of fiction, were denominated fiction; and those books which were either histories, or which made the historic interest most prominent, were classed as history; while under adventure were placed those books in which striking, stirring scenes of daring made the most prominent features. The reasons given for liking the books also furnished a guide to the classification. But it must be confessed that in many cases the titles alone furnished the clue to classification, such titles as "The Wild Hunter of the Mountains," and "Ten Years in a Man Trap," etc., being sufficiently suggestive.

In answer to the first question, the names of the books given were supposed to represent the total reading done during the previous five months. On a number of papers, however, after a list was given, were added such statements as "and forty more," and a number I can't remember," so we must not conclude that the records obtained give an accurate statement of all the books read by the pupils whose papers have been examined. As it is, the total number of names of books sent in amounted to 16,739, making an average per pupil of 5.6. The number read by individual pupils, according to the lists given, varied from *none* in some twenty-five cases, to *over sixty* in the case of one Miss of thirteen.

An examination of the actual number of books read at the different ages, shows the number read per pupil, in the case of both boys and girls, is least at the age of

nine, and greatest at the age of fifteen; a gradual rise in amount being noticeable throughout; the only breaks in the scale of ascendancy being in the case of the boys at the age of twelve, and of the girls at the age of fourteen. The average number of books reported as read, varies in the case of the boys from 3.6 at the age of nine, to 6.3 at the age of fifteen; and, in the case of the girls, from 4.6 to 6.4. Only at the age of fourteen do the boys exceed in number of books read.

Table showing the grand total of books read by pupils at the different ages, according to classes:

Boys.								Totals	Number of Pupils.	Average per Pupil.
	History.	Biography.	Fiction.	Travel.	Adventure.	Science.	Poetry.			
Age 9	22	15	246	7	11	10	8	319	90	3.6
" 10	88	55	402	16	58	30	6	655	153	4.3
" 11	218	100	861	25	116	37	24	1381	249	5.5
" 12	263	131	945	44	194	47	35	1659	326	5.0
" 13	319	111	959	69	426	42	42	1968	344	5.7
" 14	269	108	840	52	167	33	49	1518	257	5.9
" 15	119	38	261	15	97	9	40	579	92	6.3
	1298	558	4514	228	1069	208	204	8079	1511	5.3

Girls.

Age	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Totals	Number of Pupils.	Average per Pupil.
9	28	15	433	6	5	13	3	503	110	4.6
10	75	42	749	14	13	31	27	951	169	5.6
11	109	48	1477	10	33	23	38	1738	290	5.7
12	142	98	1809	36	37	33	66	2221	367	6.0
13	100	68	1320	46	35	21	57	1647	271	6.1
14	73	29	802	16	19	7	58	1004	176	5.7
15	49	17	472	7	10	2	39	596	95	6.4
	576	317	7062	135	152	130	288	8660	1478	5.8

Total pupils, 2,989; total books, 16,739

The grand totals, with the percentages for each class, read as follows:

	Boys.		Girls.	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Fiction,	4514	55.8	7062	81.5
History,	1298	16	576	6.6
Adventure, ..	1069	13.2	152	1.7
Biography, ..	558	6.9	317	3.6
Travel,	228	2.8	135	1.5
Science,	208	2.6	130	1.5
Poetry,	204	2.6	288	3.3

As might have been conjectured, the girls are in excess of the boys in two lines only—fiction and poetry. In the cases of both boys and girls, fiction stands highest; but the ratio between fiction and history, which in both cases stands next highest, is in the case